

Message Text

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TAGS: SHUM, CVIS, CSCE, PINT, BU (ATSEVA, NEDEZHDA AND CHILD)

SUBJECT: DIVIDED FAMILY CASE: NEDEZHBI ATSEVA AND CHILD

REF: A) SOFIA 1317; B) STATE 138630

1. CONSUL INTERVIEWED NEDEZHDA TODOROVA ATSEVA ON JULY 14 ABOUT REFUSAL OF HER APPEALS WITH GOB FOR PASSPORTS AND EXIT PERMITS FOR HERSELF AND DAUGHTER, ANTOANNETTA K. ATSEVA. ATSEVA CONCERNED BECAUSE SHE HAS NOT HAD LETTER FROM SPONSOR, HUSBAND, DR. ALEXANDER ALEXANDER IN SEVERAL MONTHS.

2. ON JULY 11 ATSEVA MADE PERSONAL APPEARANCE AT BOARD

OF REVIEW AT SOFIA PASSPORT OFFICE TO APPEAL REFUSAL OF PASSPORTS. CHAIRMAN OF BOARD SAID THAT MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS HAD REFUSED HER APPEAL OF JUNE 15 AND BOARD ALSO DENIED HER APPEAL. CHAIRMAN SAID REFUSAL BASED ON FACT HER HUSBAND HAD "ESCAPED" FROM BULGARIA IN 1968, HE HAD RECEIVED TRAINING AS PHYSICIAN BY GOB, AND ATSEVA FAMILY REQVIFICATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN BULGARIA. (NOTE: SPONSOR NOT ESCAPEE, BUT REFUSED TO RETURN TO BULGARIA FROM MEDICAL TRAINING IN ITALY IN 1968.) ATSEVA CLAIMED SHE LAW-ABIDING BULGARIAN, WHO WISHED TO JOIN HUSBAND AND CITED RECENT BULGARIAN TV REPORT THAT ALL BUT FOUR FAMILY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REUNIFICATION CASES RESOLVED FAVORABLY BY GOB. SHE ASKED IF HER CASE ONE OF FOUR EXCEPTIONS. CHAIRMAN RESPONDED THAT PROBLEM IN CASE NOT WITH HER, BUT FACT HUSBAND AN "ESCAPEE" AND INFORMATION REPORTED ON TV THE BUSINESS OF JOURNALISTS, NOT THE PASSPORT OFFICE. WHEN SHE CITED STATE GAZETTE PUBLICATION IN MAY 1976 OF RIGHTS OF BULGARIAN

CITIZENS TO TRAVEL ABROAD, THE CHAIRMAN RESPONDED THAT THIS ALSO THE BUSINESS OF JOURNALISTS. SHE REQUESTED BOARD APPROVE TRAVEL FOR SEVEN DAY EXCURSION TO VISIT HER HUSBAND. CHAIRMAN RESPONDED THAT PASSPORT OFFICE KNEW SHE INTENDED TO REMAIN ABROAD AND WILL NOT APPROVE ANY TRAVEL FOR HER AND DAUGHTER.

3. DESPITE THIS RECENT EPISODE, ATSEVA REMAINS OPTIMISTIC THAT CASE WILL BE APPROVED BY GOB EVENTUALLY.

4. IT CLEAR THAT CONSUL'S DISCUSSIONS WITH CONSULAR DEPT, MFA, ON THIS CASE HAVE HAD NO BEARING ON CONSIDERATION OF CASE BY MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR PASSPORT OFFICE. EMBASSY SENT NOTE ON JULY 14 TO CONSULAR DEPT, MFA, TO REINFORCE OUR PREVIOUS INFORMAL NOTE ON ATSEVA CASE.

5. PER PARAGRAPHS 3 AND 4 OF REF A, EMBASSY SUGGESTS CONGRESSIONAL ASSISTANCE BE ENLISTED BY SPONSOR WITH REPRESENTATION BEING MADE TO BULGARIAN EMBASSY, WASHINGTON FOR RESOLUTION THIS CASE. LATEST REPORT BY ATSEVA SHOWS THAT PASSPORT OFFICE HAS TAKEN VERY HARD LINE ON THIS CASE AND MFA WILL NOT BE MOTIVATED TO ATTEMPT TO OVERCOME INTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTRY OPPOSITICA UNLESS THERE HIGH-LEVEL US INTEREST AND PRESSURE.
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